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Org: Ohio State

Youth Brigade May Lose Status As OSU Student Group

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The Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade no longer should be a student organization at Ohio State University, the Student Commission recommended Friday after a hearing that got off to a stormy start in the Ohio Union.

Commission head Tami Hockenberger recessed the hearing after brigade president Patricia Preston said the organization would not plead to charges against it and tried to read a statement calling the session a "lynching."

SHE AND brigade treasurer George Preston, who is her husband, did not return when the hearing reconvened. They maintained it should have been postponed because brigade adviser John B. Quigley Jr., professor of law, was out of town.

Following university rules, John Halstead, coordinator of judicial affairs, presented the university's case without rebuttal. He instituted proceedings after students, faculty and staff complained about a Jan. 23 demonstration sponsored by the brigade during which a CIA recruiter on campus was splattered with red paint.

After 90 minutes of deliberations, the nine-member commission found the brigade guilty of violating a rule allowing students to meet with recruiters and two additional rules prohibiting intentional threat of or inflicting of bodily harm and intentional threat of or actual destruction of property.

Students on the commission did not rule on

lesser offenses of negligence leading to the possibility of inflicting bodily harm or destruction of property.

FOLLOWING Halstead's recommendations, they said the brigade:

- Should be barred from being a student organization through the 1979-80 academic year.

- Make restitution for interior damage to Hitchcock Hall where the incident occurred, estimated during the hearing at \$30 to \$40.

- Not be allowed to reorganize under another name.

- Not be allowed to reregister after 1980 unless it does pay for the damage.

JAMES TRAINER, business manager for student organizations, testified during the hearing that the brigade has spent the \$238 it got from the university this academic year and shows no money in its accounts.

Actual sanctions will be imposed by Richard A. Hollingsworth, director of student organizations and community life. The brigade can appeal both the convictions — to University Court — and any sanctions imposed — to Hollingsworth — within 10 days of being notified of them.

University estimates of \$225 worth of damage included sand blasting the exterior of Hitchcock Hall to remove a statement, "U.S. Out of Iran — CIA Off Campus," painted on the building sometime during the night after the demonstration, it was revealed at the hearing.

THE KEY point by Halstead was that the paint-throwing incident was

pre-planned. Preston has maintained the brigade did not know anyone was going to throw paint.

Witnesses, including staff and students from the College of Engineering where the CIA recruiter was interviewing, testified that representatives of the news media showed up immediately after the incident even though they did not call them and that Preston came in earlier in the day asking to see the

CIA recruiter, presumably so he could identify her for the 15 persons who appeared later for the demonstration.

Miss Hockenberger said the commission also was influenced by the fact that brigade members distributed leaflets outside the building after the incident and later acknowledged responsibility for it in news reports.

THE LEAFLETS distributed the day of the demonstration did not say anything about paint. Halstead was unable to identify the person who threw the paint or prove he or she was a member of the brigade.

Preston of 189 W. Patterson Ave. and Paul Hollister of 2267 Indianola Ave. have each been charged with complicity to perform criminal mischief. Witnesses said Hollister read a statement just before the paint was thrown.

They both have pleaded innocent, the cases have been consolidated, and a hearing on the misdemeanor charge is scheduled for March 9.